

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM U S MISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2171

INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1585

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T GENEVA 2684

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VAN

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES

REF: A. STATE 087849

B. GENEVA 2534

C. GENEVA 2631

1. PER INSTRUCTIONS REF A, DCM AND COUNSELOR RMRC CALLED AT UNHCR (MACE AND GOBIUS) APRIL 17 TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO AND RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES EX-CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. MISSION'S PREVIOUS CONTACTS WITH UNHCR AND ICEM THIS REGARD REPORTED REFTELS B AND C.

2. RESPECT NATIONALS OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM WHO FIND THEMSELVES OUTSIDE THEIR HOMELANDS EITHER AT PRESENT OR IN FUTURE AND FEAR RETURN, UNHCR RECONFIRMED ITS WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS DEPENDING THEIR LOCATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES AND MAKE DETERMINATION THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR REFUGEE STATUS UNDER UNHCR MANDATE. UNHCR GAVE ASSURANCE THAT MANDATE REFUGEES WOULD RECEIVE UNHCR'S PROTECTION AS WELL AS MATERIAL AND RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDING OF COURSE FUNDS AND RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE. IN EVENT SOME NOT CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR REFUGEE

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STATUS UNHCR INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO ALSO CONSIDER

ASSISTING THEM ON "GOOD OFFICES" BASIS PROVIDING FUNDS
AND RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

3. WE STRESSED SENSITIVITY OF PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY RESPECT
POTENTIAL REFUGEES EX-VIETNAM. UNHCR FULLY APPRECIATES THIS
SENSITIVITY AND STATED ITS INTENTION TO OPERATE
DISCREETLY WITHOUT FANFARE AS AND WHERE NECESSARY.

4. MISSION STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT AS THIS NEW REFUGEE
PROBLEM DEVELOPS, WHETHER IT BE IN THAILAND, MACAO OR ELSE-
WHERE, THE HOST GOVERNMENT BE URGED TO APPEAL AT EARLIEST
POSSIBLE STAGE PREFERABLY ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TO UNHCR
FOR ASSISTANCE. SUCH OFFICIAL REQUESTS WILL ENABLE US TO
SPUR UNHCR INTO PROMPT ACTION. ANOTHER ESSENTIAL
INGREDIENT WILL BE MAXIMUM DETAILS OF PROBLEM. HOPE AND
TRUST DEPARTMENT WILL INSTRUCT OUR DIPLOMATIC POSTS IN HOST
COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP AND REPORT MAXIMUM DETAILS OF NEW
REFUGEE PROBLEMS ON TIMELY BASIS.

5. MISSION MADE SEPARATE APPROACH TO ICEM DIRECTOR
THOMAS WHO ASSURES ICEM'S READINESS TO PROVIDE RE-
SETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS AS
DEEMED NECESSARY. MISSION WILL REPORT IN SEPTTEL ON
ICEM'S PLANS TO DISPATCH RESETTLEMENT EXPERTS TO BANGKOK.
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